



## Site of First Catholic Mass 1834

It is believed that in the earliest days of New Germany, Mass was celebrated in the homes of the early settlers. The first Mass was celebrated in 1832 at the home of Christian and Barbara (Allgeier) Rich. It is thought that a priest named Father Meriatte, S.J. came from Guelph to offer this mass. In 1997, to honour this first Holy Mass, a special stone was erected at the end of the lane at 1065 Foerster Road, presently the home of Frederick Verne Drexler.

## The Klein Cross

*Location: South Side of St. Charles St East—just outside of Maryhill*

The original Klein Cross was erected in 1846 by Andrew Klein and his brothers on their farm in Waterloo Township (now Woolwich Township). Legend tells that during a rough Atlantic crossing, Mr. Klein vowed that, if the family arrived safely in the New World, he would erect a shrine to the glory of God even before he built a home. It was a hazardous ordeal which lasted 6 weeks. The helplessness of the situation was a grim reminder that man is utterly dependent on God. The original cross made of peeled cedar was about 14 feet high.



## The Drexler—McNanny Cross

*Location: 6th line—near Wellington Road 51—outside of Ariss*

The Drexler Cross inherited its name from the family of Sebastian Drexler, who purchased his Pilkington Twp. Farm containing the cross, in 1876. The Drexler Family assumed responsibility for care and maintenance of the cross for several generations. Robert McNanny and his brothers, of Irish descent, lived at the farm until 1860 and may have erected the cross in about 1832 in gratitude for a safe arrival after a stormy Atlantic crossing. The original cross erected at this site was also made of cedar. It was a hewn square 10" X 10" and about 15 feet high. It was the most ornate of all the crosses. The original cross was moved to Doon Pioneer Village in Kitchener. The replica that exists today has been constructed as closely as possible to the original. In the year 2010, the cross was reconstructed and replaced with the wood of a hydro pole.

